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CALIFORNIA

Governor Brown Declares Wildfire Awareness Week

My Mother Lode, May 8

California Governor Jerry Brown is calling on state residents to get ready for the upcoming fire season. This morning the Governor officially declared the week of May 7-13 as “Wildfire Awareness Week.” With heavy rain and snow over the winter months, the vegetation is expected to be very heavy this season, and once it starts to dry out, the risk of catastrophic wildfire will heighten. Combined with high tree mortality, officials are expecting another very busy season.

Interior Department reveals 22 monuments under review

Washington Examiner, May 5

The Interior Department on Friday announced the 22 monuments in 11 states and five marine monuments that it is asking the public to comment on whether the federal land is being put to the best use. Among the national monuments being reviewed are the Bain and Range in Nevada, Bears Ears in Utah, Berryessa Snow Mountain in California...Sand to Snow in California, San Gabriel Mountains in California.

US Interior secretary meets with tribal leaders

Normangee Star, May 8

... It does not include Obama's 2014 addition of the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands in Mendocino County to the California Coastal National Monument. The interior secretary told reporters in April that he would make recommendations on Bears Ears by the start of June – 45 days after the executive order was signed. “With something that affects local populations as much as a monument designation, the people ought to have more a say in the process”.

Enviro Lawsuit Effectively Bans Fracking In 1 Million Acres Of California

Daily Caller, May 7

The federal government effectively banned hydraulic fracturing on 1 million acres of public land in California as part of a legal settlement with environmental groups this week. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will halt plans to lease public land for fracking until it reworks a resource management plan to auctioned off drilling rights in

California.

Calif. Wildflowers In All Their Splendor: VIDEO

Temecula Patch, May 7

Thanks to an especially wet winter, California enjoyed a rare 'super bloom' across most of the southern portion of the state. We visited an assortment of the spots that boasted some amazing flowers this season. Though we may be at the tail end of the bloom, you can still catch some flowers at most of the locations listed below...The Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, located off of Highway 74, offers multiple hiking trails where you can catch some blooming desert flowers.

Ray Ford: Carrizo Plain A Land Where You Can Hear the Quiet

Noozhawk, opinion piece, May 7

It was a day not unlike one I might have seen in a Clint Eastwood western: rolling hills covered with a thin layer of well-dried grass, distant mountains that seemed to shimmer in the dusty haze, cattle grazing not too far from the shell of an abandoned ranch house, a herd of pronghorn antelope bounding over the rusted barbwire fencing. It was New Year's Day 2001, our first foray to the Carrizo Plain area. Even at 10 a.m. the day was cold and crisp. Yvonne and I had spent New Year's Eve at the Buckhorn in New Cuyama after exploring the western half of the Sierra Madre Mountains.

Mark Magaña: Slow attack on national monuments

The Desert Sun, opinion piece, May 6

For over 100 years, presidents have used the Antiquities Act to preserve some of our nation's most important public lands and waters as national monuments. There are 14 in California alone. These national monuments help define our nation's historical, cultural and natural heritage. They belong to and represent all Americans...Many other monuments in California are on the review list, including the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, a spectacular wilderness area north of Sacramento; Giant Sequoia National Monument, with grove upon grove of ancient sequoias; and the California Coastal National Monument, comprised of more than 20,000 small islands of the California coastline.

NATIONAL

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke launches process to roll back Obama monument decision

Washington Examiner, May 5

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke launches a four-day listening tour on Sunday to gather input on whether or not to do away with some of former President Barack Obama's more controversial decisions on expanding national monuments. The listening tour will

begin in Utah at the Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in launching the four-day effort, the Interior Department announced Friday. Both of the monuments are under review as ordered by President Trump's executive order to determine whether to roll back or modify Obama's decisions.

Obama's methane rule could be scrapped

The Columbus Dispatch, May 7

Time is running out for lawmakers to wipe away regulations enacted in the last stretch of Barack Obama's presidency. The Congressional Review Act — which had been used only once before — gives lawmakers 60 legislative days to overturn recently adopted agency rules.

Secretary of the Interior hosts "Doggy Days" at work

CBS News, May 5

The Department of the Interior kicked off its first-ever "Doggy Day" on Friday. Secretary Ryan Zinke says this is the first federal department to become a dog-friendly workplace, and CBS News' Chip Reid reports he's confident it's going to reduce stress and improve morale. Secretary Zinke's dog, Ragnar, is already no stranger to his office. "Ragnar is our ambassador to happiness at the Department of Interior," Zinke said.

Interior Department launches 'Doggy Days,' becoming first federal agency to welcome pets

Stars and Stripes, May 5

The Interior Department welcomed a new breed of visitor to its Washington headquarters on Friday, one on four legs, covered with fur and on a mission to boost morale at the agency in charge of public lands. The first federal agency to go dog-friendly opened its doors at 7 a.m. to 85 dogs - dachshunds, Labradors, spaniels, Yorkies, border collies, Portuguese water dogs, beagles and many others, purebred and mutt - in a test run of perhaps the most nonpartisan policy change of the Trump administration.

Trump's Interior Secretary Says We Can Make Land 'Better' Than Before It Was Drilled

HuffPost, May 5

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke penned an op-ed for the conservative Washington Times this week that argued, among other things, that natural areas can actually benefit from the extraction of oil, gas and other resources. "It's better for the environment that the U.S. produces energy," Zinke wrote. "We can responsibly develop our energy resources and return the land to equal or better quality than it was before extraction."

Gardner: 'Western food fight' possible over moving BLM headquarters

The Daily Sentinel, opinion piece, May 7

A “Western food fight” could break out over exactly where the Bureau of Land Management’s national headquarters should be located if U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner succeeds in his push to get the office moved out West, he concedes. But the Republican from Colorado told *The Daily Sentinel* in an interview that he still thinks Grand Junction is well positioned to compete for the office if legislation he introduced this week becomes law.

Mr. Zinke, Keep Channeling Teddy Roosevelt

New York Times, opinion piece, May 8

On his first day on the job, Ryan Zinke, President Trump’s secretary of the interior, rode a horse to work, in plain imitation of Teddy Roosevelt, who as president used to gallop around Washington, and whose admirable record as a conservationist Mr. Zinke says he hopes to emulate. By all accounts, Mr. Zinke, a former Navy SEALs member and congressman from Montana, is not a dope. He therefore knows that he cannot possibly match Mr. Roosevelt if he embraces the dismaying anti-environmental agenda Mr. Trump has saddled him with.

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